



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

July 2011 – Week 1

Air Date: July 3 – July 9 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: GRAVE OF THE CONFEDERACY

JULY 1865 AND THE LOST CAUSE ENDS IN A TEXAS RIVER.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JULY 4, 1865. RIO GRANDE NEAR EAGLE PASS. CONFEDERATE GENERAL JO SHELBY AND HIS IRON BRIGADE ARE FLEEING TO MEXICO AFTER THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR. SHELBY HOPES TO JOIN MEXICAN REBELS RISING UP AGAINST EMPEROR MAXIMILLIAN, BUT HIS MEN CHOOSE TO SIDE WITH THE DOOMED DICTATOR.

BEFORE CROSSING INTO MEXICO, SHELBY'S MEN CARRY THEIR OLD BATTLE FLAG OUT INTO THE RIO GRANDE, WEIGHT IT WITH STONES AND LOWER IT INTO THE MUDDY WATER. IN TEARS, SHELBY YANKS THE BLACK FEATHER FROM HIS HAT AND THROWS IT IN AS WELL. THE SOUTH IS NO MORE.

DESPITE LATER SEARCHES, THE SUNKEN FLAG WAS NEVER BEEN FOUND AT THE SITE NOW KNOWN AS THE GRAVE OF THE CONFEDERACY.

THE CONFEDERACY ENDED IN THE RIO GRANDE 146 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Art Leatherwood, "SHELBY EXPEDITION," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qms01>), accessed 6/15/09. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Shelby's Expedition to Mexico: An Unwritten Leaf of The War. John Edwards, Facsimile of 1872 edition Steck Company, Austin, 1964

Fallen guidon: the saga of Confederate General Jo Shelby's march to Mexico. Edwin Adams Davis, Published by Texas A&M University Press, 1995.

"The Burial Of Shelby's Flag: War Poetry By an Eyewitness to the Last Flying Confederate Battle Flag" Christopher Eger, Dec 20, 2006 (http://militaryhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/the_burial_of_shelbys_flag), accessed 6/15/09

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